



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

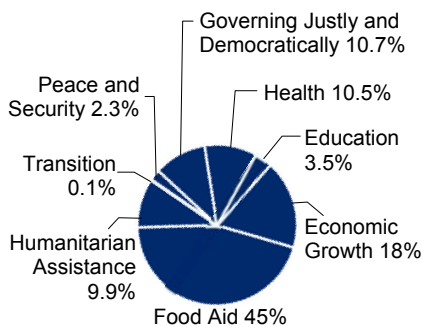
**SUDAN**

## MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2011



### USAID Assistance to Sudan FY 2010



Peace and Security	\$17.1
Governing Justly and Democratically	\$81.2
Health	\$79.6
Education	\$26.9
Economic Growth	\$136.9
Food Aid	\$341.5*
Humanitarian Assistance	\$74.9*
Transition	\$1.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$759.3</b>

Note: Amounts in millions

\* Includes eastern Chad



Residents of Kapoeta, Eastern Equatoria state, watch as a lineman connects the town's first power lines and street lights, provided by USAID. Photo: Jenn Warren

## USAID Brings Electricity to Key Towns in Western and Eastern Equatoria

USAID brought electricity to two key towns in southern Sudan in February—Kapoeta in Eastern Equatoria and Maridi in Western Equatoria—as part of USAID's effort to provide basic infrastructure to the underdeveloped and war-affected region.

Electric power in the two towns will improve community security and the ability of local merchants to conduct business; will benefit government institutions, health care facilities, and students studying after dark; and will reduce reliance on polluting energy sources such as diesel for generators and kerosene.

More than 80 percent of southern Sudan's rural population does not have access to electricity. Since 2008, USAID has brought electricity to three towns that did not previously have electric power. The first was Yei in Central Equatoria, where USAID helped establish southern Sudan's first electrical cooperative.

"We know this project will have an immense impact on promoting economic activity, enhancing security through street lighting, improving reliability of electricity to schools and clinics, and providing convenience to households," said U.S. Consul General in Juba Ambassador R. Barrie Walkley, at the inauguration of the Kapoeta



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*The Kapoeta Power Plant is the second of three electrical plants USAID has provided to key towns in southern Sudan that previously had no electricity. Photo: Jenn Warren*

power plant with Government of Southern Sudan officials on February 4. The Maridi plant was inaugurated February 23.

Each of the two new plants can serve approximately 900 customers, and were built so that future expansion could be added.

In Maridi, Mariam Tito owns a small beverage shop at the heart of the town center, and became one of the new power plant's first electricity customers. Before electricity was available in Maridi, her gross sales totaled 200 Sudanese pounds per day (approximately \$71). Since she was able to extend her shop hours into the evening, her gross sales have increased 50 percent, to 300 Sudanese pounds (approximately \$107) per day.



*Elias Tombe's Tete Book Shop in Maridi town was the first to connect to the new Maridi Power Plant. Photo: Jenn Warren*

"I'm going to increase my production and earn more money by selling goods at night," she said. "We have been waiting for the electricity with a mixture of joy and impatience, because it contributes to development wherever it is installed."

In Kapoeta, near southern Sudan's border with Kenya, youth leader David Koriang commented, "Electricity shortages impede economic development of a strategically positioned town like Kapoeta, apart from the pollution caused by the use of kerosene and diesel. This project represents a viable market for modern energy services."

USAID funding to southern Sudan's energy sector overall since 2005 totals approximately \$20 million, including approximately \$3.9 million for the Maridi project and \$4 million for the Kapoeta project by their expected completion in September 2011.



*Small business owner and electricity customer Helen Orasio outside her Ethiopian and Chinese Traditional Medicine and Healing Service Center in Kapoeta. Photo: Jenn Warren*

The two projects include construction of power generation and distribution facilities, customer connections, establishment of a utility, and training of utility staff. Training included commercial and technical aspects such as meter reading and billing, accounting, linemen skills, and human resource and customer relations, among others. ♦



More than 80 percent of southern Sudan's rural population does not have access to electricity.





## USAID Begins Final Stage for Southern Sudan's First Highway



*Aswa Bridge near the Ugandan border on the Juba-Nimule Road. The new bridge USAID built to modern standards (right) alongside the old bridge (left) is complete. Photo: Jenn Warren*

On February 10, USAID launched the final stage of building the 192-kilometer Juba-Nimule Road, the start of tarmacking what will be southern Sudan's first highway—the only paved road outside major towns. The project is funded by USAID in close cooperation with the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Ministry of Transport and Roads, and aims to strengthen development and bolster economic growth in southern Sudan.

Indicating the importance of the road for southern Sudan, GOSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit attended the ceremony to launch the tarmacking phase.



*Government of Southern Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit (right), greets U.S. Consul General in Juba Ambassador R. Barrie Walkley at the ceremony launching the road tarmacking. Photo: Jenn Warren*

"Juba-Nimule Road is the lifeline of the people of southern Sudan, and it links southern Sudan with our brothers and sisters in Kenya and Uganda," President Kiir said.

"A proper road infrastructure is a prerequisite for any favorable trade to take place because it affects the cost of doing business, especially in a war-emerging region like southern Sudan," President Kiir added.

Speaking at Aswa Bridge near Sudan's southern border with Uganda, U.S. Consul General in Juba Ambassador R. Barrie Walkley told a cheerful crowd that the "192-kilometer road is a living testimony of the partnership between the people of the United States and the people of southern Sudan."

"When completed, estimated travel time between Juba and Nimule will be reduced from eight hours at the beginning of the project to about 2½ hours," Ambassador Walkley added. "It should be noted that already more than 20 buses use this road every day to travel between Kampala and Juba."



*Construction workers watch as the second layer of surface treatment is applied on the Juba-Nimule Road in front of Aswa Bridge, near Nimule. Developing construction skills of Sudanese workers and the ability of local labor-based companies to bid on contracts has been part of the project. Photo: Jenn Warren*

Construction of the road required several stages, including demining, feasibility and engineering studies, repairs to existing bridges that were in many cases dangerous, and construction of seven new bridges to replace the old bridges, which did not meet modern standards and were insufficient for modern trucks. Construction of the all-weather sealed road will be completed in early 2012. The roadway has been improved and widened to two lanes.



The tarmacking method used is a double bituminous surface treatment—two layers of hot bitumen placed on a prepared surface as a binder with stone chippings overlaid.

USAID has funded infrastructure projects in southern Sudan to support successful implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended Sudan's long civil war. Projects such as the Juba-Nimule Road represent tangible outcomes of peace and cooperation, and underscore the long partnership between the United States and southern Sudan.

Angelo Kenyi, a resident of Pageri, a village a few kilometers away from Aswa Bridge along the Juba-Nimule Road, said the road “has strategic importance that will fast-track development in southern Sudan. I’m waiting keenly for the day when they finalize the Juba-Nimule Road.”

USAID is also funding 260 kilometers of all-weather gravel roads in Western Equatoria state, which is considered southern Sudan’s “bread basket.” ♦

## USAID Hands Over Draft Land Policy to Government of Southern Sudan



USAID/Sudan Deputy Mission Director Susan Fine (left) and U.S. Consul General in Juba Ambassador R. Barrie Walkley (center) hand over to Robert Lado Luki, chairman of the Southern Sudan Land Commission, the draft land policy USAID helped create. Photo: Jenn Warren

After more than a year of community consultations across southern Sudan’s 10 states, USAID on February 18 officially handed over to the



The draft land policy USAID helped the Southern Sudan Land Commission deliver to the Government of Southern Sudan. Photo: Jenn Warren

Government of Southern Sudan’s Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development a draft land policy—the first comprehensive land policy to be considered for southern Sudan. The Council of Ministers and the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly will review the land policy before submitting it to the GOSS president to sign.

Creation and enforcement of a comprehensive land policy is important to provide equal opportunity and access to land in southern Sudan by strengthening land tenure security, land use planning, and land administration and management. It will help prevent land grabbing by influential individuals or companies and reduce disputes over land that can lead to conflict, and can enhance the business climate in southern Sudan by addressing questions over land rights. It will also improve equitable access to land for agricultural production, and encourage farmers to use land for long-term, environmentally sustainable investments, which is important in protecting southern Sudan’s natural resources and improving food security in a region where most people are subsistence farmers.

After the Comprehensive Peace Agreement ended Sudan’s civil war in 2005, the United States began providing technical and material support to the Southern Sudan Land Commission, facilitating the formation of an Inter-Ministerial Land Policy Steering Committee, and supporting efforts to develop a comprehensive land policy. The process to develop the land policy started in early 2009, and led to 10 state-level consultative workshops that gathered comments from communities across southern Sudan for the draft policy. Workshops were also held that





focused on women's rights to land, and property rights challenges that affect private sector investment.

Following finalization of the land policy, additional work will be needed to define, test, and implement the laws and regulations and institutions that guide the administration and management of land and property rights. In anticipation that the land policy will soon be signed into law and to build proper institutional infrastructures to implement the policy, USAID will help establish land administration and management systems in three selected states of southern Sudan—Jonglei and Central and Western Equatoria states, which will be replicated in southern Sudan's other seven states. USAID will focus in particular on protecting property rights for the poor, female-headed households, and women in general. ♦

## USAID-Provided Communication Equipment Helps Authorities in Volatile Areas Improve Security



*An administrator works from his modest office in Jaac Payam, Aweil North County, Northern Bahr el Ghazal state in southern Sudan. Photo: AECOM International*

USAID is enabling local authorities to better address insecurity in the tense region along Sudan's north-south border, where the country will divide into two when the south becomes independent July 9, following the January referendum in which southerners overwhelmingly chose to secede.

In the fall of 2010, USAID identified Aweil North and Aweil East counties in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state

as key flashpoints and, to help improve communication and coordination, moved swiftly to procure and deliver satellite phones, motorcycles, generators, and other equipment to local authorities.

According to the Aweil North County Commissioner Kuol Athian, this support has already helped coordinate responses to two major events—the aftermath of bombings of the town of Kiir Adem in November, and the referendum in January.

Kiir Adem, which lies north of the 1956 border between northern and southern Sudan but is administered by Aweil North County in the south, was bombed twice by northern forces last November, causing civilian displacement and significantly increasing tensions between the north and south just weeks before the momentous referendum. With no reliable phone network in the area, state and county authorities struggled to reach local officials in Kiir Adem after the bombings to get accurate information on the situation and coordinate a response.

“Now,” said Kuol, “the payam administrator in Kiir Adem as well as other staff in far-flung and isolated parts of my county ... are just a phone call away.”

The equipment has enabled Aweil East County Commissioner Kawac Deng to receive daily reports from his local administrators, and has had other positive effects. Residents of Wanjok, the headquarters of Aweil East County, now have electricity at night because USAID-provided solar panels are providing surplus power. According to Commissioner Kawac, this “has transformed our town and built confidence in the people.”

The challenges Aweil North and Aweil East authorities face are similar to those in other counties in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and southern Sudan at large—the counties struggle to deliver services and security across a sprawling landscape that is sparsely populated and linked together by little infrastructure. With many responsibilities and few resources, local government often lacks the capacity to monitor, mitigate, and manage conflict.

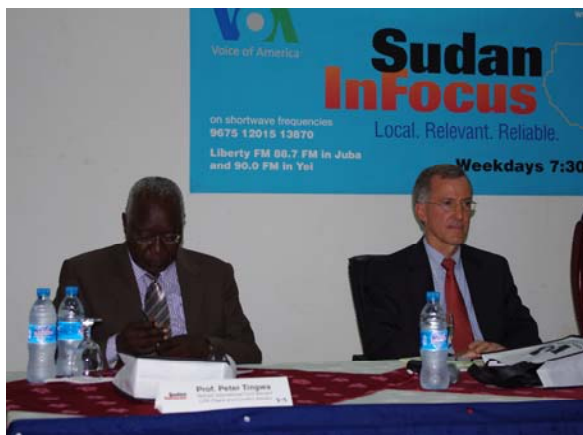
USAID is strengthening local authorities' ability to monitor and manage insecurity in conflict-prone counties along the north-south border.

USAID is now planning to help with construction and rehabilitation of county headquarters buildings in Aweil North and East counties, which will further



boost the ability of local authorities to meet and communicate with the citizens they represent. ♦

## USAID Participates in Voice of America Town Hall on South Sudan's Future



USAID/Sudan Mission Director William Hammink (right) and Professor Peter Tingwa (left) at a Voice of America town hall March 25 in Juba on "South Sudan: Building a New Nation." Photo: Tong Deng/USAID

On March 25 in Juba, Voice of America (VOA) hosted a town hall meeting, "South Sudan: Building a New Nation," which provided local citizens the opportunity to express opinions, concerns, and suggestions about their emerging nation to a panel moderated by John Tanze Mabusu and Charlton Kodi, co-hosts of VOA's "Sudan in Focus" radio program.

Panelists included Government of Southern Sudan Minister for Labor and Public Service Awut Deng Acuil, USAID/Sudan Mission Director William Hammink, retired international civil servant and peace and conflict advisor Dr. Peter Tingwa, and Nhial Bol, managing editor of *The Citizen* newspaper.

The discussion addressed topics such as how to build institutions and infrastructure to support a new nation, how to manage security threats outside and inside South Sudan, how to establish a diplomatic presence with critical regional and international partners, and how to manage trade and commerce

so the country can develop and prosper after it becomes independent July 9.

Security was the issue audience members raised most often. Many expressed concern that security is not being adequately addressed and that until the situation improves, it will be very difficult for the emerging country to prosper. "We must work hand in hand—the government, the people, the NGO community and others to address and respond to these concerns," Hammink said. "The solution lies in working as a partnership." ♦

## Polio Immunization Efforts Showing Positive Results



A child receives polio immunization at the "Just Two Drops" campaign launched in Juba March 28. Photo: Sarah Armstrong/USAID

USAID, the United Nations, the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), and other international partners launched a polio immunization campaign March 28 in southern Sudan, where the crippling disease re-emerged in 2008.





“Due to the efforts of the GOSS, development partners, and people of southern Sudan, the outbreak that re-emerged in South Sudan in 2008 has been halted,” USAID/Sudan Mission Director William Hammink explained at the Juba Nyakuron Cultural Center, where the three-day campaign was launched. “Since 2005, USAID has committed over \$8 million to support polio immunization and eradication as well as routine immunization activities across the region,” he added.

GOSS Minister of Health Dr. Luka Tombekana Monoja and Minister of Information Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin GOSS said it is time to “kick it and keep it out” when referring to polio and other preventable diseases. The ministers expressed their commitment to continue campaigns that vaccinate against preventable diseases, including polio. Along with international organizations such as USAID and Rotary, the GOSS pledged to reach those in need throughout southern Sudan, particularly children in remote areas.

Mothers attending the event were invited to have their young children vaccinated with ‘just two drops’ of the polio-preventing vaccine.

USAID assisted with the last polio immunization campaign in November 2010, which reached more than 3 million children under age 5 in southern Sudan with the vaccine, achieving polio immunization coverage of 99 percent.♦

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## Ox Plow and Other Training Help Southern Sudan Farmers Increase Agricultural Yields

Residents of southern Sudan have long relied on subsistence farming utilizing traditional methods. These practices, such as hand tilling and broad casting of seed, result in crop loss, disease, and infestation, and severely limit farmer’s yields.

USAID is working to overcome these challenges by introducing new technology and farming methods to residents of Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, and Unity states.

Maliah Gai Luoi, a USAID beneficiary from Lingere Boma in Mayom County, Unity state, is learning firsthand the benefits of ox plow technology, proper spacing and planting techniques, and improved seed varieties.



*Maliah Gai Luoi, a beneficiary of USAID agriculture training, displays his maize crop at his home in Lingere Boma, Mayom County, Unity state. Photo: Winrock International*

Maliah returned to Lingere in 2000 after years of living as an internally displaced person at a camp on the outskirts of Khartoum. At 30 years old, he is responsible for 18 dependents, whom he had been supporting with a small retail shop and cattle trading business. Maliah first saw ox plow farming during his time in Khartoum, but never considered that he would one day practice it himself. When USAID offered ox plow training in Mayom County during June 2010, Maliah was quick to sign up.

After 30 days of training on the proper commands and instructions for his bulls, BRIDGE provided Maliah and another farmer with an ox plow to share. When he began farming his fields, Maliah saw that ox plowing was an easy, quick, and effective method of cultivation. He was amazed that he was able to plow a plot of land in two days.

In addition to the ox plow training, Maliah participated in other USAID trainings on planting techniques, crop spacing, pest control, and weeding, and received a grant of improved maize seed. When harvest season arrived, Maliah experienced a record yield from his maize crop, something he attributes directly to the training and USAID assistance. “I’m so happy, imagine I have harvested 10 bags, nearly 1,000 kilograms, in just one season. This year, food will not be a problem for my family,” he said.

News of his and others’ success with ox plow technology traveled rapidly through the surrounding villages. “Why are we dying of hunger if we could



produce so many bags of maize using our bulls?" said one farmer.

To date, 20 community members have approached USAID to participate in training during 2011.♦

## USAID, Local Community Collaborate to Improve Health Services



Tukuls (mud huts) under construction to house midwives and other Primary Health Care Center staff in Muni Payam, Terekaka County, north of Juba. Photo: Erin Polich/Management Sciences for Health

Terekaka, a growing county and town 60 miles north of Juba, translates as "The Forgotten" in the local dialect. After the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, returnees began repopulating the area, which significantly increased demand for health services. Today, Terekaka is heavily populated by southern returnees seeking refuge, land, and jobs, as well as internally displaced persons escaping nearby tribal violence.

USAD is working to increase health services in Terekaka by supporting 16 health facilities, collaborating with partner non-governmental organizations, local communities, and the government to identify barriers people face when seeking health care.

An hour and a half up a rutted dirt road from Terekaka town is Muni village. Roads here are dirt paths, potholed and difficult to navigate in the dry season. Heavy rains and flooding make these paths nearly impossible to maneuver during the rainy season. Nearly all transportation here is by foot or

bicycle. The Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) recently purchased a small scooter ambulance to transport patients in distress from Muni and surrounding villages to the health facility in Muni, or to Terekaka when needed.

Though the primary health care center in Muni is equipped to run an antenatal care and delivery wing, these services have not been offered because there was no midwife on staff. Much of southern Sudan is plagued by a severe scarcity of medical personnel. Decades of war ravished the skilled work force. The few training institutions in the region are poorly staffed and equipped. The midwives who were recruited for Muni refused to relocate there, complaining that village living situations are unsatisfactory as they are forced to share or rent *tukuls* (mud huts).



Payam, Terekaka County, southern Sudan. Photo: Erin Polich/Management Sciences for Health

Village health committees enable communities to provide input on the health care they receive in their local facilities. During a recent meeting, the health committee in Muni decided that antenatal care and delivery services were too important to neglect any longer. They decided to collect one Sudanese pound (about 35 cents) from each patient visiting the health facility to build new living quarters to house midwives and other facility staff. As of March 2011, a new midwife has been

recruited and the new tukul quarters are nearing completion, thanks to the collective labor and improved governance of community members.

USAID, the GOSS and community members are working hard to improve the health and well-being of the people of Terekaka, and turn this community from "the Forgotten" to "the Remembered."♦